



City of Huntington Beach

2000 Main Street ♦

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CA 92648

Travis K. Hopkins, PE
Director

Department of Public Works
(714) 536-5431

March 5, 2012

Mr. David Woelfel
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, California 92501-3348

Dear Mr. Woelfel:

Subject: Basin Plan Amendments to Revise Recreation Standards for Inland Fresh Surface Waters in the Santa Ana Region

The City of Huntington Beach is pleased to submit this letter in support of the adoption of the proposed Basin Plan Amendments to revise recreation standards for inland fresh surface waters in the Santa Ana Region.

We recognize the efforts of the Stormwater Quality Standards Task Force involving a wide range of stakeholders to review the water quality standards related to swimming and recreational uses in the region's streams and rivers. Through a multi-year effort, the Task Force evaluated the science underlying water quality criteria for bacteria; conducted comprehensive evaluations of the ability of the region's water bodies to support swimming and other recreational uses; and considered a wide range of potential implementation options.

We believe that the proposed Basin Plan Amendments will help assure that human health will be protected within our region and that public resources will be expended reasonably and fairly. The Basin Plan Amendments update the region's water quality objectives for indicator bacteria to conform with USEPA's recommended criteria, and the amendments incorporate a narrative objective to assure that waste discharges do not contain human pathogens at levels that will increase the risk of illness. The proposed changes recognize that some waters are commonly used for swimming and other recreational activities, while others are used infrequently, if at all. Finally, the proposed amendments acknowledge that recreational activities are unsafe in some streams during wet weather and regulate those streams accordingly.

The City commends the Santa Ana Regional Board for its efforts with the Stormwater Quality Standards Task Force. This comprehensive effort has established a firm scientific foundation for much-needed changes to the Region's Basin Plan and has done so in a manner that is open and transparent.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Elliott at 714-375-8494.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Olmos', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tony Olmos, PE
City Engineer

TO/TE:jg

C: Chris Crompton, County of Orange, OC Watersheds